

God Hasn't Given Up On Me, Part 4 - Romans 11:25-27 – November 4th, 2012

- Today's teaching will be part four of a series I've titled; "God Hasn't Given Up On Me."
- Beginning with verse twenty-five, the Apostle Paul will sort of round a corner, and show us why it is that God could never give up on me.
- Simply put, just as God is not through with the Jew, so too is God not through with me and you too, this because of His covenant with us.

1. Because He created us for eternity (Verses 25-27)

(25) I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. (26) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. (27) And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

- v25 Paul wants them neither ignorant or conceited; Israel has temporarily experienced a hardening until the fullness of Gentiles comes in.
- v26 He goes on to say all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob.
- v27 After quoting Isaiah 59:20-21, Paul quotes Isaiah 27:9, which says that it is God's covenant with them when He takes away their sins.

- Paul reiterates, the full number is in, when the last Gentile gets saved, then the trumpet sounds, the rapture happens, the tribulation begins.
- Can you imagine what it's going to be like for the person who leads that last Gentile to Christ? They'll be telling that story for all eternity.
- Once the church is removed, God will re-direct His attention to Israel and at the end of the seven-year tribulation, all Israel will be saved.

- The bottom line is it's not God's will that any should perish but that all should come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, Jew or Gentile.
- Furthermore, God did not create us for this world in the temporal, He created us for the world to come in the eternal, this is not how it ends.
- It's with this understanding that we're able to shed light on whatever it is that we're going through with the cares and the affairs of this life.

- Often times, I may feel as though God has given up on me while in the midst of the trials of this life, but that's not true in light of eternal life.
- It's for this reason the Apostle Paul says what he says the way he says it, in that Israel's hardening of heart is only going to be temporary.
- However, with the eternal perspective in focus it makes whatever I go through easier to get through knowing what I have to look forward to.

Romans 8:18 NIV I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- Here Paul is making what is arguably a daring claim saying, he's concluded our present sufferings aren't worthy to be compared with future glory.
- Some translations will render verse eighteen as Paul saying; "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared."
- While this isn't a word we use very often today, it does carry with it the idea having reconciled or done an appraisal, and there are no comps for it.

Charles Spurgeon - "Here the rule of proportion is calmly applied, and by heavenly arithmetic it is shown that our present griefs are hardly worth a thought, for eternal glory so infinitely transcends them. Blessed be the Lord God of our salvation forever and ever. Amen."

- One might argue that while knowing what awaits us in glory yet future does give us hope, that hope can give way to despair when it's too far off.
- Then there's Proverbs 13:12, which doesn't help at all when it says; "hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
- This begs the question of how can it be possible to find hope in our present sufferings if we have to wait until our future glory is revealed in us.

One commentator answered it best this way; "Paul says that the pathway to future glory, for us, as it was for Jesus, must lie through present suffering. To which the obvious question is: Is it worth it? Does future glory outweigh present suffering? Is it worth following this costly path? Paul considers, (which indicates a measured thoughtful conclusion), that it is worth it. ...The sum total of human suffering in this age is like dust in the scales by comparison with that future glory. This claim is so massive that he embarks on a cosmic proof [by taking] men and women mired in the maze of incomprehensible suffering and gives us an aerial view, so that we see where it leads."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV (16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. (17) For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (18) So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

William Newell - "In constant view of that glory to be revealed in and through the Church, the sufferings which God called the saints to go through, no matter what they were, seemed as nothing."

- If you were to ask me what I thought was the deciding factor as to whether or not a Christian is truly joyful or not, this would have to be it.
- Let me explain, what often separates the joyful Christian, from the miserable Christian is whether or not they live for this life, or eternal life.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest the way a Christian can live for eternity, is to invest time in the Word of God, with the God of the Word.

Psalms 16:11 NIV You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Isaiah 26:3 NKJV You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.

Philippians 4:6-8 NIV Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

- In closing, I'd like to encourage you to try something for just seven days. Invest time in God's Word and prayer and watch what happens.
- I promise you, in so much as you do, a joy and peace will return to your life, your family, and your marriage vis-à-vis an eternal perspective.
- What you're going through is only temporary, God created you for eternity, so fix your eyes on Him, your mind stayed on Him, to the end.